

MEDICINE

Three Medical Successes

Boy with violin chest, man given up for dead now well, and a blind woman who recovered enough sight to sew, seen at Nutrition Clinic.

➤ Three cases from a medical reporter's notebook, recorded while visiting the Nutrition Clinic at Hillman Hospital in Birmingham, Ala.:

Mr. L., gaunt and waxy-white except where the rash of pellagra darkened and reddened his skin, sat in his front yard, "expecting the end in two or three days." A nurse driving by saw from the road how wretchedly ill he looked and asked if he would not come to the hospital. Mr. L. replied that it was no use, his end was at hand. His daughter, however, overheard the conversation. Inspired by the hope of help for her father, she took him to the clinic. That was in 1936.

Today he walked spryly into the clinic for a check-up. He feels and looks well and has been working at the fishing camp he runs ever since his discharge from the hospital almost 10 years ago. Vitamins and good diet saved him.

The doctors still see him regularly for check-ups because he cooks for himself and widowers who "bach it" do not always eat as well as they should.

George, a little Negro boy aged three, has a condition so rare doctors today almost never see it. He is far more unusual than one of the upside-down stomach children you have read about. He is the boy with the violin chest.

With his shirt off, his malformed chest above his pot belly really does look like a fiddle, the sides curving in toward the center and out again.

George has rickets in an unusually severe form. But he is getting cod liver oil now and he is going to get well. When he first came to the clinic some months ago, he was literally walking on his uppers. His legs were so bowed that the few steps he could take were made on the tops of his feet. His legs are still bowed but they have already straightened enough so he can walk on the soles of his feet and with fair speed.

"I can see well enough to do my sewing now," Mrs. M. declared triumphantly.

A few months ago she could not see at all. Both her eyes looked as if covered by sheets of frosted glass. The eye doctors decided they would have to be

removed and she had come to the hospital for the operation.

It is by grace of riboflavin that she still has both eyes and good vision in one. After she had entered the hospital for the operation, Dr. Tom Spies, director of the Nutrition Clinic, and his staff heard about her and saw her eyes. They thought her blindness might have come from lack of riboflavin. This is one of the B vitamins and lack of it can lead to severe eye trouble, among other difficulties.

So they asked to be allowed to treat her with huge doses of the vitamin before the eyes were removed. They knew it could not do any harm and they believed it might help.

They failed to save the sight of one

eye. The condition had gone on too long to be reversed. It is still frosted over and sightless. But the other is now clear and keen and Mrs. M. is happy in the ability to do everything for herself, including her own sewing and darning.

Science News Letter, June 23, 1945

MEDICINE

Malaria Cases in Oregon Traced to Soldier

➤ A 12-YEAR-OLD girl and a grown woman living in a rural section of Oregon have contracted malaria from a soldier returned from the Southwest Pacific, Dr. S. B. Osgood, health officer of Josephine County, Ore., reported. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, June 16.)

These are the only cases of malaria occurring in this rural Oregon area as far back as medical records go, Dr. Osgood states. Nevertheless, Dr. M. E. Corthell, of Grants Pass, Ore., was so alert that the diagnosis of malaria was made in the first case within two hours of the time the little girl came to his office.

She lived in an unscreened house which was only partially finished and lacked



GETS RESULTS!—On the left, a deadly fungus known as late blight has killed the plants. The row on the right has been sprayed with a new and powerful fungicide known as Dithane. These healthy plants promise a good crop, yielding over 100 bushels of potatoes per acre more than plots sprayed with conventional fungicides. The new compound, carrying the forbidding chemical name of diethylene sodium bisdithiocarbamate, is also proving deadly to insects.

panes in several of the windows. The veteran, her great-uncle who had contracted malaria in Australia, lived in a tent about 50 feet from her house for about two weeks before she started having chills and fever. Mosquitoes were plentiful and on examination were found to be the malaria-spreading variety. Existence of this kind of mosquitoes in this rural Oregon area had not previously

even been suspected.

The second case was a neighbor whose house was well within the mosquito range of the returned soldier's tent.

A logging partner of the returned soldier who shared the tent may also have contracted malaria. He has returned to Texas and so far Dr. Osgood has been unable to get in touch with him.

Science News Letter, June 23, 1945

GEOLOGY

Equal Access to Minerals

Wise administration of the world's supply for all peaceful nations lies at the very heart of the problem of world peace, leading geologist declares.

► EQUAL access to the world's minerals for all peaceful nations lies at the very heart of the problem of world peace, Dr. Charles K. Leith, University of Wisconsin geologist and leading government consultant, has declared.

Some wise administration must be devised, Dr. Leith said, to withhold the minerals so necessary to war-making from nations that threaten the peace of the world.

"Minerals are irreplaceable assets which are being depleted at an alarming rate," Dr. Leith declared. "No nation has enough of all commercial minerals. The United States is better supplied than any other nation, but during the war it has had to import about 70 varieties of minerals. Interdependence of nations as to minerals is a physical fact, not theory.

"Since the first World War, as nations have waked up to the overwhelming importance of mineral supplies both for their future industry and for their security, there has been a world-wide

scramble to control them, resulting in growing international friction. The degree of success in acquiring mineral supplies measures war-making power in these days of mechanized war. There now looms before us the problem of equal access to the world's minerals."

An adequate answer to world mineral control will require not only international cooperation based on goodwill and pious hopes, but a very high order of scientific fact-finding and analysis, Dr. Leith said.

"The United States and the British Empire have been leaders in the development of the world's minerals," he explained. "Between them they control politically and commercially nearly three-fourths of the world's known mineral reserves. Whatever their attitude may be it is obviously a critical factor in finding an answer."

Dr. Leith spoke during the intermission of a New York Philharmonic Symphony broadcast over CBS sponsored by the U. S. Rubber Company.

Science News Letter, June 23, 1945

CHEMISTRY

Eliminates Gypsy Moths

► THE GYPSY moth, which has damaged so many fruit, shade and forest trees within the state, can be completely eliminated from Pennsylvania within a few years, Miles Horst, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, stated after inspecting areas sprayed with DDT by airplane.

Visiting officials found that in large areas of forest land infested with gypsy moths, airplane spraying with a fine mist of DDT over tree tops kills all the caterpillars.

In areas where airplanes cannot be used to advantage, it is believed that the caterpillar, termed by Secretary Horst the most destructive plant pest of the northeastern states, can be eliminated by spraying the DDT solution on the tree trunks. This would take advantage of the caterpillar's habit of deserting the tree-top feeding ground just before daylight and crawling down the trunk to hide under sticks, stones and leaves. Coming into contact with the spray residue on the trunk, the worm would soon die.

The inspection party, composed of agricultural and forestry officials of New York and Pennsylvania, started at sunrise to watch two airplanes scatter DDT over large woodland areas. Visiting several sections sprayed two and three weeks ago, they found the pests had been wiped out. The party also inspected a 20-acre isolated woodlot in Lackawanna County treated experimentally with DDT by plane a year ago and found no moths, egg clusters or caterpillars, indicating that a single spraying had completely destroyed the pest.

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